

MIDDLETOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Middletown, Connecticut



REVISION to
Plan to Address Racial Imbalance
Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, CT

Submitted to: Commissioner of Education

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Executive Summary

The Middletown Board of Education is committed to fully complying with the requirements in Sections 10-226a through 10-226e of the General Statutes of Connecticut as they relate to the racial balance of pupils attending the Middletown Public Schools.

Middletown Public Schools is facing not only a racial imbalance problem at Macdonough Elementary School, but an overcrowding situation in Moody Elementary School.

In preceding years, the minority percentage at Macdonough Elementary School has been slowly increasing, and to address the situation, the Board of Education contracted with JCJ Architecture for a District Wide Feasibility Study was received on November 10, 2009. The Board of Education proposes a four-part plan as follows:

1. Pre-School Consolidation (consolidating the Bielefield Elementary and Snow Elementary Preschool programs at Snow School and addressing the Macdonough Elementary Pre-School program in conjunction with the assistance of Middlesex Community College in our efforts to make it less diverse)
2. Summer Academic Enrichment Program for Middletown's at-risk students
3. Redrawing of School Attendance Boundaries (full system wide 2010-2011 redistricting)
 - a. Designate Macdonough Elementary School as a public school of choice
4. New Intra-District Magnet School at Macdonough Elementary School (working with Wesleyan University and Green Street)

The Board and the Superintendent are determined to meet the goals of reducing racial imbalance, creating a more diverse educational atmosphere, and improving student achievement for all students in the district.

I. Background:

Using October 1, 2008, enrollment data, the Connecticut State Board of Education's Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Student Assessment calculated that Macdonough School was racially imbalanced because the percent of minority population was 28.67 percentage points more than the comparable district proportions of students in the same grade configuration.

On July 16, 2009, Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette submitted the Middletown Board of Education's proposed plan to address racial imbalance at Macdonough School. On August 26, 2009, Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette received a memorandum from Laura Anastasio of the State Department of Education, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, indicating the State Board of Education would review said plan at its meeting on September 2, 2009. (*Exhibit 2*)

On September 2, 2009, the Connecticut State Board of Education unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, conditionally approves the Middletown Board of Education's "Proposed Plan to Address Racial Imbalance" as its plan to correct racial imbalance in Macdonough School, contingent upon the following:

- The Middletown Board of Education adopting a specified course of action based upon the architectural firm's fall 2009 report with an implementation to begin in the fall of 2010; and
- this course of action being detailed in a revision to the plan, which the Middletown Board of Education shall submit to the State Department of Education for approval not later than February 6, 2010;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action. (*Exhibit 3*)

II. Definition of Racial Imbalance:

Pursuant to §10-226e1-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, a school is racially imbalanced if the percentage of minority population falls outside of a range from 25 percentage points less to 25 percentage points more than the comparable proportion for the applicable grade configurations. A school is deemed to have impending racial imbalance if the percent of minority students falls between 15 and 25 percentage points above or below the grade configuration of the relevant schools. As a further example, both our middle schools and the high school are in racial balance because we have two middle schools and one high school and there is not a significant difference in the percentage of minority students at these levels.

III. Requirements of the State Department's Regulations:

According to the regulations, the administration must develop a plan incorporating a Board of Education policy regarding racial balance, seek community input, conduct a public hearing and receive Board of Education approval for the plan prior to submission of such plan to the Commissioner. The plan also must meet certain criteria as outlined in Connecticut General Statutes §10-226e-5.

IV. Middletown Public Schools – Overview of Racial Balance Corrective Actions:

The Middletown Board of Education is committed to fully complying with the requirements in Sections 10-226a through 10-226e of the Connecticut General Statutes relating to the racial balance of pupils attending the Middletown Public Schools. In response to the “racial imbalance” status of Macdonough School, cited in the letter and memo dated April 8, 2009, from Commissioner of Education Dr. Mark K. McQuillan, addressed to Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette, the Middletown Board of Education has addressed the racial issue in its first step by awarding JCJ Architecture a contract for the preparation of a District Wide Feasibility Study. This study was prepared with both perspectives in mind (a Macdonough issue and a district wide issue.) The JCJ Architecture Facility Utilization Study’s final recommendations covered an extended time frame, contained options, implementation plan, alternatives for Board consideration, and had flexibility built into the final report. This report was submitted to Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette on November 10, 2009, (*Exhibit 7*) along with a Power Point presentation to the Board of Education at its regular meeting on November 17, 2009. (*Exhibit 10*)

The Executive Summary from the JCJ Architecture Facility Utilization Study is as follows:

“In December of 2008 JCJ Architecture was retained by the Middletown Public Schools to undertake a School Facilities Utilization Study. The intent of the study was to investigate a number of areas of concern related to the District’s facilities, their appropriateness and use. Over the course of this year we have visited all of the schools, conducted a number of wide-ranging public outreach efforts, and collected data from within and outside of the District. We were given no limitations by the district administration in undertaking our study. In meeting with various groups and staff, there were four areas of concern that were identified a number of times and these became the focus of our effort. These areas were:

- 1. Disparity relative to facility capacity and student enrollment at the elementary school level. This is especially bothersome with three of the schools north of Route 66 over capacity and two south of Route 66 significantly under capacity. District-wide there is adequate capacity within the elementary school facilities, but not all of the facilities are located in the vicinity of the current populations.*

2. *The ongoing problem with socioeconomic diversity between the elementary schools. The District has historically addressed this by realigning attendance boundaries, which has brought up unintended issues. Principal among these are the facts that some students travel from their own neighborhood to a school in a different area of the City and a reduced involvement of parents with their child's school. Secondary is that bus transportation costs are higher than they might otherwise be. This concern is most prevalent in the schools that serve the North End neighborhood.*
3. *The current attendance boundaries for the elementary schools. There are numerous cases of students who travel past their community school to attend a school in a different part of the District and of neighborhoods whose students attend three or more elementary schools. This contributes to parental angst, a reduction in community involvement in the schools, increased transportation costs, and loss of buy-in from teachers and administrators.*
4. *Lingering feelings that the 6th grade academy is creating student hardship.*

The concerns with the elementary school issues are more wide ranging and pervasive than those for the middle school students and facilities. The areas of concern with the 6th through 8th grades appear to be more administrative in nature.

The elementary school attendance boundaries, disparity in enrollment and issue of socioeconomic diversity are the areas where work is needed. We feel that the district should work to establish a standard building program that would apply to each of the elementary schools. This would then require reconsideration of the attendance boundaries, which should be reviewed regardless of any contributing influences. The issue of diversity between the schools may be addressed to some degree by reconfiguration of the attendance boundaries, but a more far-ranging approach will be needed; open enrollment closing or expanding Macdonough, or providing an alternate program that is available to any student in town are all options that could be explored.”

In its deliberations after the submission of the JCJ Architecture Facility Utilization Study, the Middletown Board of Education has recognized that any response to correct the racial imbalance at Macdonough School will have both direct and indirect implications for the district as a whole. In effect, this is a Macdonough issue and a district-wide issue and the proposed plan was prepared with both perspectives in mind.

On December 8, 2009, the Board of Education created an Ad Hoc Feasibility Committee which met on January 11, 2010 (*Exhibit 19*) and formed three sub-committees to address the racial imbalance plan:

- Attendance Boundaries
- Socioeconomic Diversity
- Disparity Among Elementary Schools

These sub-committees will continue to meet as the district works through the items 1 through 4 below.

The Middletown Board of Education also recognizes that with an early-February submission of the plan to the state, the district will still be in the planning stages of its response to the state, but fully intends to have the plan in effect for the start of the 2010-2011 school year. The Middletown Racial Imbalance Plan outlined here has four major components:

2. Pre-School Consolidation
3. Summer Academic Enrichment Program for Middletown's at-risk students
4. Redrawing of School Attendance Boundaries
 - a. Designate Macdonough Elementary School as a public school of choice
5. New Intra-District Magnet School at Macdonough Elementary School

CSDE Regulatory Requirements Regarding Racial Imbalance:

Sec. 10-226e-5 Plans (c) content of Plan

Section 4: The proposed methods for eliminating racial imbalance and preventing its recurrence in the school district may include voluntary inter-district enrollment plans acceptable to the State Board of Education as an alternative to the mandatory pupil reassignment, provided any such voluntary plan addresses methods which will be used to increase student achievement.

Component 1: Pre-School Consolidation

The Feasibility Committee is considering recommending to the Board of Education a plan to move the Bielefield Pre-School program to Snow School and consolidate it with Snow's Pre-School, thereby freeing up space in other buildings which will aid with the redrawing of school attendance boundaries. See memo from Director of Facilities Kendall Jackson to Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette, dated January 20, 2010. (*Exhibit 24*)

We will continue to look at the Pre-School program in Macdonough in conjunction with the assistance of Middlesex Community College in our efforts to make it more racially balanced.

Component 2: Summer Academic Enrichment Program for Middletown's at-risk students

The District will open up its Summer Academic Enrichment Program with its main focus on literacy, numeracy, and enrichment.

This Summer Academic Enrichment Program will continue in the next fiscal year on Saturdays in conjunction with the assistance of the following organizations:

- Community Renewal Team (CRT)
- Green Street
- Liberty Bank
- Middlesex Coalition for Children (MCC)
- Middlesex Community College
- Middletown Commission of the Arts (MCA)
- Middletown Federation of Teachers (MFT)
- Middletown School Administrators Association (MSAA)
- Oddfellows
- Wesleyan University
- YMCA
- Youth Service Bureau (YSB)

More detailed information concerning this Summer Academic Enrichment Program was provided in an email dated January 9, 2010, from Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette and Associate Superintendent Barbara Senges and contained the following information:

“It is very clear from our data and research throughout the US that this group of students lags behind as a result of the summer hiatus from school. This summer the Middletown Public Schools has been provided Title I ARRA funds to implement a summer program for these students. This is a federal mandate we are compelled to follow as well as a component of our District Improvement Plan. We know from past experience that this population of students and their families has unique needs for summer programming. These families lack the resources for transportation and afternoon daycare that prevent the attendance of their children at a half-day academic program – even if the program is offered free of charge or at a reduced rate. For this reason, we proposed the development of a program in our schools that would combine our academic expertise and funding resources with your recreation/art enrichment expertise and your funding resources.

It was decided at the Macdonough meeting that the Board of Ed would design an academic program for 110 students (80 to be housed at Macdonough and 30 at Green Street) that would run each morning Monday thru Friday for five weeks (July 6 to August 6) from 9:00 to 11:30. At this time all students would return to Macdonough for lunch (The Art and Culture Department busses will transport) and then in the afternoon students would disperse into the Arts Program, the Circus Program, or an Arts and Science Program at Green Street. Discussion at this meeting also included plans for 20 entering first graders from Macdonough to attend a summer program at the YMCA that would combine an academic program from the School district, recreation programming from the Y and funding from Liberty Bank. An additional program for entering Kindergarteners and their families is also being planned in conjunction with our Family Resource Center.

Plans to design similar programs at Farm Hill, Wesley, and Moody in conjunction with the Park and Recreation Department have unfortunately not proven as fruitful.

We have decided that as we are under a Federal mandate to implement this program, the school district is compelled to develop a full-day summer program both academic and recreational separate from the Park and Recreation Department. Over the next three or four weeks prior to February Break we will be developing a plan that will consider the use of each of our additional 10 school buildings (Macdonough program is already established with Green Street and Arts and Culture Department). We will be looking first at Wesley and Lawrence which are air-conditioned and a 6, 7, and 8 program at Woodrow Wilson.”

The Summer Academic Enrichment Programs will include breakfast, lunch and snack at Macdonough Elementary School, Wesley Elementary School and Woodrow Wilson Middle School provided by CRT (Community Renewal Team of CT.)

The District is continuing to move forward with plans for our expanded summer school program for rising Pre-K through Grade 8 students. The plan is continuing to evolve and we are moving to make final decisions as quickly as we can in order for our parents and students to have as much advanced notice as possible.

To date, the *TENTATIVE* programs and sites include:

SCHOOL	PROGRAM	GRADES
Bielefield	Raising Readers	Entering K-1 & Families
	Safety Town	Entering K
Lawrence	Academic Enrichment	Entering 2-5
Macdonough	Academic Enrichment	Entering 2-5
	Summer Literacy	Pre-K
Wesley	Academic Enrichment	Entering 2-5
	Extended School Year	All Grades
WWMS	Academic Enrichment	Entering 6-8
	21st CCLC Enrichment	Entering 6-8
Green Street	Arts/Sciences Academy	Entering 3

YMCA	Summer Literacy	Entering 1

Based on our preliminary estimates of free/reduced participation rates, we anticipate that each school site will qualify for a Federal Summer Lunch program. Meetings will be scheduled to continue our planning for these important summer programs.

For more information on this program, see the minutes of the meetings January 6, 2010 (*Exhibit 18*) and January 14, 2010 (*Exhibit 20*), along with the Projected Budget - Summer 2010 July 6 - August 6, 2010. (*Exhibit 21*) The criteria for the Selection of Eligible Summer Students is shown in (*Exhibit 22*).

Component 3: Redrawing of School Attendance Boundaries

JCJ Architecture Facility Utilization Study conclusions concerning the Elementary School Attendance Boundaries (Section 5) (*Exhibit 7*) are as follows:

- “1. *The attendance boundaries should be changed to better align residential housing patterns with school location and capacity, regardless of any other steps the District takes. Realigning attendance boundaries will provide a more rational division of the District for the elementary schools and should result in a reduction in transportation costs.*
- 2. *Shifting attendance boundaries may cause the student demographic balance to change. However, given the wide distribution of subsidized housing throughout the District, it is equally possible that adjusting attendance boundaries may have no impact on the demographic. A preliminary review shows that most of the would likely see a slight change in racial diversity, Wesley could change by as much as 7 percentage points, and that Macdonough may go up as much as 7 percentage points and Moody down by as many as 10 percentage points. Unless carefully implemented, adjustments to attendance boundaries could make certain schools in the District more unbalanced relative to the overall racial proportions in the District.*
- 3. *Discussion of sibling attendance continuation will need to take place. There may be an option given, to parents of more than one student, allowing younger students to attend the school their older sibling currently attends.*
- 4. *There will likewise need to be discussion of which grade level the realignment would occur. It may be best to allow those students in fourth grade and higher to remain at their current school, effectively giving a two year phase-in of the new attendance boundaries.”*

Please note that said study addresses 18 different potential areas of improvement for the redistricting and can be found on pages 53 through 60. (*Exhibit 7*)

The Attendance Boundaries Sub-Committee met on January 14, 2010 to address the Sub-Committee's goals: (*Exhibit 23*)

- To take a look at our street boundaries
- To consider the number of Free and Reduced students at each school
- To consider the impact of Title I funding

The Sub-Committee met on January 20, 2010 for further discussion of the above items.

Component 4: New Intra-District Magnet School at Macdonough Elementary School

The District is giving strong consideration to the opening of an intra-district magnet school at Macdonough and the Summer Academic Enrichment Program will continue in the next fiscal year on Saturdays in conjunction with the assistance of the following organizations:

- Community Renewal Team (CRT)
- Green Street
- Liberty Bank
- Middlesex Coalition for Children (MCC)
- Middlesex Community College
- Middletown Commission of the Arts (MCA)
- Middletown Federation of Teachers (MFT)
- Middletown School Administrators Association (MSAA)
- Oddfellows
- Wesleyan University
- YMCA
- Youth Service Bureau (YSB)

The Feasibility Committee will continue to research additional options for a new intra-district magnet school at Macdonough Elementary School.

Designate Macdonough Elementary School as a public school of choice.

V. Addressing the Relevant Sections of the State Department of Education's Regulations Regarding Imbalance:

Section 1: The Board of Education policy statement addressing racial imbalance in the school district:

Included is a copy of the Board of Education Policy #0521 Equal Opportunity-Nondiscrimination that states,... “The Board of Education reaffirms its policy of equal educational opportunity for all students and prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, civil union, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law in district educational programs and activities, including, but not limited to course offerings, athletic programs, guidance and counseling, and tests and procedures. To the maximum extent possible an intensive affirmative action program shall be an integral part of educational policies and programs.” *Shown as Exhibit 1 in the Middletown Plan to Address Racial Imbalance dated July 16, 2009 previously submitted.*

Also included is Board of Education Policy #6131 that states the Boards’ Equal Education Opportunity and Nondiscrimination: Instructional Program. *Shown as Exhibit 1 in the Middletown Plan to Address Racial Imbalance dated July 16, 2009 previously submitted.*

Section 2: A description of the process the Board of Education has undertaken since the submission of its initial Plan to Address Racial Imbalance dated July 16, 2009 is shown in the timeline below:

DATE	ACTIVITY
August 17, 2009	Summary Memo from Director of Facilities Kendall Jackson regarding the JCJ District Wide Demographic & Facility Utilization Study and the activities which had occurred, including collection of all surveys; working on the building programs; research into probable impacts under potential options; and working with Transportation Manager to gather information relative to transportation costs, etc. <i>(Exhibit 1)</i>
August 25, 2009	Board of Education meeting – timeframe of October/November was provided to the Board regarding meetings with JCJ reps. More information and options would be available at the September Board Meeting.
August 26, 2009	Letter from Laura L. Anastasio, State Department of Education, informing Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette that the State Board of Education would review the Middletown Board of Education’s Racial Imbalance Plan on September 2, 2009. <i>(Exhibit 2)</i>
September 2, 2009	State Board of Education approved recommendation to accept Middletown’s plan to correct racial imbalance contingent upon Middletown BOE adopting a specified course of action based upon the architectural firm’s fall 2009 report with an implementation to begin in the fall of 2010; and said course of action being detailed in a revision to the plan, which the Middletown Board of Education shall submit to the

	State Department of Education for approval no later than February 6, 2010. <i>(Exhibit 3)</i>
DATE	ACTIVITY
September 15, 2009	Board of Education meeting - Gregory Smolley of JCJ Architecture briefly reviewed his written update of the District Feasibility Study with comments on: 5-8 grade arrangement, Keigwin and parent happiness with the school, etc. Mr. Smolley noted a meeting was planned with the Director of Transportation and areas to review; attendance areas, open/semi enrollment system and magnet schools, and changes to buildings to accommodate program changes. It is not anticipated that there would be any major configuration changes recommended and that the draft proposal should be ready in October.
October 7, 2009	Memo from Director of Facilities Kendall Jackson to Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette concerning the status of the JCJ District Wide Demographic & Facility Utilization Study and when the different sections were being written. JCJ expects to finish the research on the potential change to school attendance boundaries in two weeks. <i>(Exhibit 4)</i>
October 13, 2009	Board of Education meeting - Kendall Jackson reported that JCJ is finalizing its analysis and recommendations and will present it at the November Board meeting. It was suggested two or three public forums be held in December to get community input.
November 2, 2009	Memo from Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette to Sonia Manjon concerning initial research to develop a magnet school to address overcrowding at Moody School, Racial Imbalance at Macdonough, and provide an alternative education for Middletown students. <i>(Exhibit 5)</i>
November 4, 2009	First draft and second draft of document concerning proposal for a Macdonough Magnet-Middletown Public Schools, Wesleyan University, Capitol Prep Collaborative. This document included sections on Purpose, Background, History, Process, Partners in Development of Project, Proposal, Tasks, Timeline, and Organizational Assets. <i>(Exhibit 6)</i>
November 10, 2009	Middletown Public Schools Facility Utilization Study submitted by JCJ Architecture (complete report) <i>(Exhibit 7)</i>
November 10, 2009	Middletown Public Schools Facility Utilization Study submitted by JCJ Architecture (condensed version) <i>(Exhibit 8)</i>
November 11, 2009	Wesleyan University Magnet School Memo concerning a study to explore a magnet school option at Macdonough Elementary School. The proposed magnet school would build a strong partnership between Macdonough Elementary, Wesleyan University and Capital Preparatory Magnet School that builds on each organization's assets. <i>(Exhibit 9)</i>
November 17, 2009	Board of Education meeting wherein Mr. Greg Smolley of JCJ Architecture provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Middletown Public Schools Facility Utilization Study with JCJ's findings and responded to questions asked by Board members. The Board set up two public forums for community input December 1, 2009 at Macdonough

	and December 3, 2009 at Keigwin. Suggested that an ad hoc committee be set up at the December 8, 2009 regular Board meeting. <i>(Exhibit 10)</i>
DATE	ACTIVITY
November 19, 2009	Hartford Courant article regarding “Firm Offers Options to Resolve Racial Imbalances” <i>(Exhibit 11)</i>
November 24, 2009	Middletown Public School Enrollment Projected to 2019 was submitted to the Board of Education by Peter M. Prowda, Ph.D. This is an in-depth report on the projected enrollment to year 2019. The K-5 enrollment fluctuates from year 2010 with 2,616 students to year 2019 with 2,757 students, see page 4 of the report. <i>(Exhibit 12)</i>
December 1, 2009	List of Forum Dates and Sites for Parents, Staff and Community, and Meeting Dates for Ad Hoc Feasibility Committee. <i>(Exhibit 13)</i>
December 1, 2009	We Need Your Input flyer re JCT Forums on December 1 st and December 3 rd <i>(Exhibit 14)</i>
December 1, 2009	Community Forum concerning JCJ Architecture report held at Macdonough Elementary School. (35 in attendance)
December 3, 2009	Community Forum concerning JCJ Architecture report held at Keigwin Middle School. (25 in attendance)
December 8, 2009	Board of Education Regular Meeting - JCJ was wrapping up its services. Maps were requested that showed location of pockets of “free and reduced lunch” students, school floor plans and current room use versus proposed room use and information on common room (gym, cafeteria) use in relation to student population. A Board member asked about the discrepancy between JCJ’s two responses if a magnet school fails. Members requested additional information on options to answering State racial balance requirements through after-school, Saturday, and/or immersion programs.
December 9, 2009	Community Forum concerning JCJ Architecture report held at Macdonough Elementary School sponsored by NEAT.
December 15, 2009	Memo to Board Chair Ted Raczka from Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette concerning formation of the Ad Hoc Feasibility Committee and list of names and contact information of committee members. <i>(Exhibit 15)</i>
December 15, 2009	Hartford Courant article re “Redistricting Options for Schools Discussed” <i>(Exhibit 16)</i>
December 21, 2009	The Middletown Press article “Committee to address schools’ racial imbalance” <i>(Exhibit 17)</i>
January 6, 2010	Summer Academic Enrichment Planning meeting with over 20 community leaders in attendance to discuss the proposed summer program. Minutes <i>(Exhibit 18)</i>
January 9, 2010	Memo Update on Summer Programming from Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette and Associate Superintendent Barbara Senges. (The contents of said memo can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this Revision to Plan to Address Racial Imbalance document.)
January 11, 2010	First meeting - Middletown Public Schools Facilities Utilization Study Ad Hoc Committee Minutes creating a sub-committee for each of three

	areas - 1) Attendance Boundaries, 2) Disparity Among Elementary Schools, and 3) Socioeconomic Diversity (<i>Exhibit 19</i>)
DATE	ACTIVITY
January 14, 2010	Summer Academic Enrichment Planning Meeting to further discuss the proposed summer program. Minutes (<i>Exhibit 20</i>)
January 14, 2010	Projected Budget for Summer School Academic Enrichment Program – Summer 2010 July 6, 2010 through August 6, 2010 (<i>Exhibit 21</i>)
January 14, 2010	Summer Academic Enrichment Program - Criteria on the Selection of Eligible Summer Students (<i>Exhibit 22</i>)
January 14, 2010	First meeting - Attendance Boundaries Sub-Committee and Minutes (<i>Exhibit 23</i>)
January 20, 2010	Memo from Director of Facilities Kendall Jackson to Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette concerning Pre-School Consolidation (<i>Exhibit 24</i>)
January 20, 2010	Second meeting - Attendance Boundaries Sub-Committee
January 20, 2010	First meeting - Socioeconomic Diversity Sub-Committee and Minutes (<i>Exhibit 25</i>)
January 21, 2010	First meeting - Disparity Among Elementary Schools Sub-Committee
January 21, 2010	Received confirmation from Community Renewal Team of CT (CRT) that the Summer School Programs provided by the District will include breakfast, lunch and snack at Macdonough Elementary School, Wesley Elementary School and Woodrow Wilson Middle School.
January 22, 2010	Summer Academic Enrichment Planning meeting to further discuss the proposed summer program. (<i>Exhibit 26</i>)
January 27, 2010	Second meeting - Socioeconomic Diversity Sub-Committee
January 27, 2010	Third meeting - Attendance Boundaries Sub-Committee and Agenda (<i>Exhibit 27</i>)
January 27, 2010	Meeting regarding Intra-District Magnet School at Macdonough Elementary School
January 28, 2010	Second meeting - Ad Hoc Feasibility Committee
February 1, 2010	Second meeting - Disparity Among Elementary Schools Sub-Committee
February 10, 2010	Third meeting - Attendance Boundaries Sub-Committee

Section 3: Presentation and analysis of relevant data including:

1. Projections of the racial composition of the public schools in the school district.

The District develops a ten-year enrollment projection on an annual basis. (*Exhibit 12*) The District is committed to reduce the racial imbalance at Macdonough in this plan prepared for implementation in the 2010-2011 school year.

2. Analysis of conditions that have caused or are contributing to racial imbalance in the school district. *See timeline shown in Middletown Plan to Address Racial Imbalance dated July 16, 2009 previously submitted.*

3. Analysis of student achievement in the cited schools as compared to other schools in the district. *Shown in Middletown Plan to Address Racial Imbalance dated July 16, 2009 previously submitted.*

Section 4: The proposed methods for eliminating racial imbalance and preventing its recurrence in the school district. These methods may include voluntary inter-district enrollment plans acceptable to the State Board of Education as an alternative to mandatory pupil reassignment, provided any such voluntary enrollment plan addresses methods which will be used to increase student achievement:

1. Preschool Consolidation
2. Summer Academic Enrichment Program for Middletown’s at-risk students
3. Redrawing of School Attendance Boundaries
 - a. Designate Macdonough Elementary School as a public school of choice
4. New Intra-District Magnet School at Macdonough Elementary School

Section 5: Identification of proposed school construction and school closings, if any, and an explanation of any impact on the plant:

Projected Budget for the Summer School Academic Enrichment Program is as follows:

SUMMER SCHOOL ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT
PROJECTED BUDGET – SUMMER 2010
July 6 – August 6, 2010 – 24 Days

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>GRADES SERVED</u>	<u>NUMBER STUDENTS SERVED</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>Macdonough</u>				
9 a.m. - 12 noon	2-5	80	8 teachers x \$2,400	\$19,200
			1 Wesleyan Student	\$900
	K	15	1 teacher x \$2,400 (FRC)	\$2,400
			1 Parent Educator (FRC)	\$1,140
			1 Site Coordinator	\$2,400
			1 Nurse	\$2,300
			Breakfast Coverage	\$750
No Transportation Costs				
<u>Green Street</u>				
9 a.m. - 12 noon	1-5	30	3 teachers x \$2,400	\$7,200

The Middletown Board of Education will annually review enrollment patterns and racial balance issues. If necessary, the Board of Education will modify its policies to ensure continued compliance with applicable State statutes and State Department of Education regulations.

The Middletown Board of Education is committed to resolving the racial imbalance and impending racial imbalance in its elementary schools. It is also committed to ensuring that imbalance does not reoccur or develop in other schools. The Superintendent and his Administrative Team will monitor the implementation of the plan.

Section 8: A timetable for completion of each step in the plan for implementation of the plan as a whole:

The Middletown Board of Education will implement the plan as follows:

- The Summer Academic Enrichment Program for Middletown's at-risk students will begin in the summer of 2010.
- The Summer Academic Enrichment Program will continue on Saturdays during the 2010-2011 school year.
- The Board of Education Ad Hoc Subcommittees will continue to meet until their mission is accomplished.

Section 9: Demonstration that school district resources have been equitably allocated among all schools within the district:

The District will submit this item to the State Department of Education in June, 2010, when our fiscal year 2010-2011 budget is adopted by the Middletown Board of Education.

Section 10: Demonstration that any disparity in student achievement levels among schools is being addressed and a description of the methods being used to decrease the disparity:

See the Middletown District Improvement Plan which was approved by the State Board of Education in the fiscal year 2008-2009.

Conclusion/Summary

The Middletown Board of Education is committed to fully complying with the requirements in Sections 10-226a through 10-226e of the General Statutes of Connecticut as they relate to the racial balance of pupils attending the Middletown Public Schools.

Middletown Public Schools is facing not only a racial imbalance problem at Macdonough Elementary School, but an overcrowding situation in Moody Elementary School.

In preceding years, the minority percentage at Macdonough Elementary School has been slowly increasing, and to address the situation, the Board of Education contracted with JCJ Architecture for a District Wide Feasibility Study was received on November 10, 2009. The Board of Education proposes a four-part plan as follows:

1. Pre-School Consolidation (consolidating the Bielefield Elementary and Snow Elementary Preschool programs at Snow School and addressing the Macdonough Elementary Pre-School program in conjunction with the assistance of Middlesex Community College in our efforts to make it less diverse)
2. Summer Academic Enrichment Program for Middletown's at-risk students
3. Redrawing of School Attendance Boundaries (full system wide 2010-2011 redistricting)
 - a. Designate Macdonough Elementary School as a public school of choice
4. New Intra-District Magnet School at Macdonough Elementary School (working with Wesleyan University and Green Street)

The Board and the Superintendent are determined to meet the goals of reducing racial imbalance, creating a more diverse educational atmosphere, and improving student achievement for all students in the district.

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT #	DATE	DESCRIPTIONS
1	8/17/09	Summary Memo from Director of Facilities Kendall Jackson regarding the JCJ District Wide Demographic and Facility Utilization Study
2	8/26/09	Letter from Laura L. Anastasio, State Department of Education, informing Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette that the State Board of Education would review the Middletown Board of Education's racial imbalance plan on September 2, 2009
3	9/2/09	Letter from State Board of Education approving recommendation to accept Middletown's plan to correct racial imbalance contingent upon Middletown BOE adopting a specified course of action based upon the architectural firm's fall 2009 report with an implementation to begin in the fall of 2010
4	10/7/09	Memo from Director of Facilities Kendall Jackson to Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette concerning the status of the JCJ District Wide Demographic and Facility Utilization Study
5	11/2/09	Memo from Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette to Sonia Manjon concerning initial research to develop a magnet school
6	11/4/09	First draft and second draft of document concerning proposal for a Macdonough Magnet-Middletown Public Schools, Wesleyan University, Capitol Prep Collaborative
7	11/10/09	Middletown Public Schools Facility Utilization Study submitted by JCJ Architecture (complete report)
8	11/10/09	Middletown Public Schools Facility Utilization Study submitted by JCJ Architecture (condensed version)
9	11/11/09	Wesleyan University Magnet School Memo concerning a study to explore a magnet school option at Macdonough Elementary School
10	11/17/09	PowerPoint presentation of the Middletown Public Schools Facility Utilization Study with JCJ's findings
11	11/19/09	Hartford Courant article regarding "Firm Offers Options to Resolve Racial Imbalances"
12	11/24/09	Middletown Public School Enrollment Projected to 2019 by Peter M. Prowda, Ph.D. This is an in-depth report on the projected enrollment to year 2019
13	12/1/09	List of all Forum Dates and Sites for Parents, Staff and Community, along with Meeting Dates for the Ad Hoc Feasibility Committee and Sub-Committees
14	12/1/09	We Need Your Input flyer re JCT Forums on December 1 st and December 3 rd
15	12/15/09	Memo to Board Chair Ted Raczka from Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette concerning formation of the Ad Hoc Feasibility Committee and list of names and contact information of committee members

EXHIBIT #	DATE	DESCRIPTIONS
16	12/15/09	Hartford Courant article re “Redistricting Options for Schools Discussed”
17	12/21/09	The Middletown Press article “Committee to address schools’ racial imbalance”
18	1/6/10	Minutes of Summer Academic Enrichment Planning Meeting
19	1/11/10	Minutes of First meeting - Middletown Public Schools Facilities Utilization Study Ad Hoc Committee
20	1/14/10	Minutes of Summer Academic Enrichment Planning Meeting
21	1/14/10	Projected Budget for Summer School Academic Enrichment Program - Summer 2010 - July 6, 2010 through August 6, 2010
22	1/14/10	Summer Academic Enrichment Program - Criteria on the Selection of Eligible Summer Students
23	1/14/10	Minutes of First meeting - Attendance Boundaries Sub-Committee
24	1/20/10	Memo from Director of Facilities Kendall Jackson to Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Frechette concerning the pros and cons of Pre-School Consolidation
25	1/20/10	Minutes of First meeting - Socioeconomic Diversity Sub-Committee
26	1/22/10	Minutes of Summer Academic Enrichment Planning Meeting to further discuss the proposed summer program
27	1/27/10	Third meeting - Attendance Boundaries Sub-Committee - Agenda